

America's Tank Division



ability on the battlefield,” said Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Coats, platoon sergeant, Company A, 16th EN. “We should do this sort of training semi-annually. The more we train the better we are.”

But the battlefield evolved during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the division's engineers adapted to the requirements of the mission, fulfilling a variety of roles as the situation dictated.

The requirements for breaching obstacles under fire and providing cover for troops and armor moving across the battlefield were supplanted by a need to dispose of ordnance, rebuild local communities and combat patrols within Task Force 1st Armored Division's area of operations.

The engineers' role may have changed for the short term but the need to maintain a high level of readiness for traditional missions has not taken a back seat in the minds' of engineer leadership.

“This training is not obsolete and is helping us to build unit cohesion,” said Command Sgt. Major Lawrence Miller, 40th EN top NCO. “We have the opportunity to sharpen skills that may have deteriorated during the deployment as well as get the new Soldiers into the team.”

Realizing that the engineers' mission in Iraq was different in many aspects allows leaders like Miller and Coats to identify and implement training at all levels addressing Soldiers' and units' needs to be fully mission capable.

“We didn't get a chance to use our equipment to the fullest down range, but we are refocusing during our training here,” explained Coats.

Garnering valuable training time for sea-

... continued next page ...



FLU 419 SEE

Small Emplacement Excavator

The SEE is used to rapidly dig combat emplacements such as crew-served weapon positions, command posts and individual fighting positions. The high mobility of the SEE provides an earthmoving machine capable of rapid movement between battle positions.

The SEE is a lightweight, all-wheel-drive vehicle.

Highly mobile.

Major systems: front mounted light-weight bucket; rear mounted backhoe.

Attachments: handheld hydraulic rock drill, a chain saw and a pavement breaker.

Weight: 16,000 pounds.

Speed: 40 miles per hour on improved roads, and has limited off-road mobility.

Crew: 2 operators.